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6th Year

September 2, 1969

24th FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY OF
THE D.R.V.N.

Sept. 2, 1945 Sept. 2, 1969

South Viet Nam

Time-Tested Stamina

THE men in Washington have not yet got over their surprise. They were wont to manipulate governments and overthrow regimes at fragile and needy Third World. A few million dollars, a CIA stunt, and the trick was pulled. American lives were not involved, and the honour of the US government was not at stake.

Now, against a government which is apparently as frail and impenetrable as so many others, Washington has staked its honour, worse still, its major strategic trumpcard. For four years, from 1965 to 1968, the US command hurled against the DRVN its most up-to-date aircraft — Thunderchiefs, Phantoms, swing-wing F-111s — B-52s, incendiary bombs, equal to 10-ton tanks. Its most sophisticated bombs. For four years, the US government resigned itself to being pilloried by world public opinion. But neither the government nor the régime of the DRVN flinched.

In this month of September, while the DRVN observes the 24th anniversary of its founding, the Washington leaders must be pondering over the lesson of history. They must remember that in September 1945, while famine was on the rampage and the DRVN government had in its coffers a bare 1,259,720 piasters, American emissaries vainly tried to seduce it with an offer of technical and financial aid. Then, through a 200,000-strong occupation army under the banner of Chiang

Kai-shek, Washington wanted to subvert it, thinking it not yet firmly established. This, too, was to no avail. US considerable financial and material help to the French colonialists with a view to doing away with the DRVN was also ineffectual. In 1964, American armed forces had to play a dismal part in the game: again no result was achieved. And though American presidents came and went, the DRVN government, the one of 1945, remains at the helm. In Paris, Minister Xuan Thuy, completely relaxed, composing poems on a lute, faced America's representatives in Washington, Presidents Johnson and Nixon are plagued by insomnia while in Hanoi Premier Pham Van Dong placidly talks with writers about the purity of the Vietnamese language, and with archaeologists, who as excavations continue, about the origins of the Vietnamese people.

This serenity is the measure of the strength of the régime. Not that problems are lacking. The government had rejected dollar offers in 1945; not because it was rich, but because it had something it prized more than dollars. It defeated the French expeditionary corps not because it had better troops or better weapons, but because it had in hand something much more effective than weapons. It held in check American air and naval forces not because it had better guns and planes but because its defences possess many other assets besides MiGs and SAMs.

(Continued page 2)



Target: a US military base

Da Nang Front:

**SUCCESSFUL
ATTACKS
AGAINST TWO
US MARINE
REGIMENTAL
C.P.s**



In the Hanoi Engineering Plant

LONG LIVE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

At the 32nd plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam the representatives of the Vietnamese people, Mr. Xuan Thuy (DRVN government) and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh (RVNV Provisional Revolutionary Government) strongly criticized the August 23 Nixon decision to postpone the withdrawal of some US troops from South Viet Nam. The RVNV envoy said that the three conditions laid down by the Nixon administration for any withdrawal of US troops were in fact schemes to prolong the aggressive war and the participation of Viet Nam. Its August 23 decision showed that these conditions were only aimed at justifying its refusal to

aggression and wrest back independence and freedom will remain unshakable, and Nixon's decision will only expose him further to condemnation by US progressives and world opinion.

Concerning the recent "cabinet reshuffle" in Saigon, Mr. Xuan Thuy and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh stressed that the appointment of Tran Thien Khiem as "Prime Minister" highlighted the militarist, dictatorial and warlike character of the clique of Saigon, agents of American imperialism; it provided a further proof of US rulers' perfidy in the use of puppets to counter the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace, independence and neutrality, its promoters to begin with.

Again on

"Vietnamization" of the War

DO XUAN SANG

NIXON has put into practice the strategy of the New Republic convention under the slogan "Vietnamization" which is better than "de-Americanization" and would help better hoodwink the American people, and its own promoters to begin with.

AN INTERESTING CALCULATION

VAN Fleet, who applied against Asians' device in the war of aggression in Korea, reckoned that with the same fire-power, the American division cost twice as much as the Korean division cost from ten to fifteen times less than an American division. The yellow cannon-fodder is to be used for American boys accustomed to nourishing and plentiful rations, and a sophisticated and cushioned equipment. The Americans are relying heavily on the US military potential: from six to eight non-combatants to serve a soldier in the frontline.

In South Viet Nam, the losses of the US expeditionary corps are "indispensable". According to US official sources, whose least preoccupation is objectivity, from January 1, 1965 to mid-August 1, 1969, 600,000 men were put out of action (dead or wounded), 345 taken prisoners, or a total of 1,049,000. Some 200,000 were captured by the North. South Viet Nam has thus become the second most costly war.

From 1961 to 1969, it cost US officially at least one hundred billion dollars, not including secret or indirect appropriations to be dealt with long years to come: allowances for the wounded and disabled and for the widows and orphans of war dead, etc.

For the fiscal year 1968-69, the US Congress has earmarked wellnigh \$10 billion dollars, which is enormous

32nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 28, 1969)

US Trick behind Nixon's Postponement of Troop Pull-Out Bared

pull out its expeditionary troops from South Viet Nam.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh recalled that the pretext invoked by Nixon was the South Vietnamese people's and armed forces' stepped-up assaults on the US aggressors. This was but a manoeuvre to pressure the South Vietnamese into reducing their activities and leaving the US aggressors free to commit more crimes in South Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam PRG negotiator said. But she added, the South Vietnamese people's will to oppose US

it would render more difficult a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem consistent with the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded his speech by reasserting the resolve of the whole Vietnamese nation to carry on the struggle and devote all its moral and material forces to the preservation of their independence and freedom, as made clear by President Ho Chi Minh on Sept. 2, 1945 (DRVN Declaration of Independence).

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SOUTH VIET NAM: PRG, NFL, ALLIANCE LAUNCH REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS CALLS

THE Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces have issued appeals on the occasion of the anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and Independence Day (September 2) of Viet Nam.

Laying stress on international support for South Viet Nam, it said:

"The Government warmly thanks the socialist countries, the people and the Government of Cambodia, the Laotian people and the Laotian Patriotic Front, the peoples and governments of various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the people and international organizations of peace and justice the whole world including the progressive people in the United States, for their valuable sympathy with, and priceless support and assistance to, the South Vietnamese people in their current struggle against US aggression, for national salvation."

The appeal of the RSVNPRG highly praised the great achievements of the Vietnamese nation in the past 24 years, first in fighting the French colonialists, to defend independence and then in resisting US aggression, to save the country.

After pointing out that the repeated, successive and all-sided setbacks of the US-puppets had forced the US imperialists into "de-Americanizing" the Viet Nam war, the appeal reaffirmed the South Vietnamese people's faithfulness to the spirit of the August Revolution, saying:

The appeal of the NFL Central Committee pointed out that persisting in their aggressive stance, the US imperialists had been pressing absurd claims at the Paris Conference while in Saigon they were seeking to preserve the corrupt Saigon administration, which the entire South Vietnamese people were making every effort to depose.

The appeal said the US must cast off the puppet Saigon administration so that the South Vietnamese people might exercise their right of self-determination.

As made clear in the 10-point overall statement advanced by the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the most sensible way is that after the complete withdrawal of US and satellite troops, free and democratic general elections will be organized by a provisional coalition government to enable the South Vietnamese people to decide their own political regime, without foreign interference, the appeal added.

Facts and Dates on the August 1945 Revolution and Founding of the DRVN

October 1930

The Political Theses of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party — now the Viet Nam Workers' Party — advocate the educational popularization and organization of the popular masses, the formation of forces to seize the opportunity to shift the imperialist into a revolutionary war and to set up the Soviet power of workers and peasants.

November 1939

The 6th session of the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party is held. The resolution passed there points out: "The present situation was created up the Indo-Chinese revolution; the prospects of the national liberation struggle of the Indo-Chinese peoples are clear and brilliant. It is necessary to... fight the imperialist war... make preparations to go to action, to carry out the national liberation revolution."

March 27, 1940

Insurrection at Bac Son (Lang Son province): the guerrillas hold control of the situation for nearly one month.

November 23, 1940

Many localities in Nam Ky (now Nam Bo) rise up. The uprisings are drowned in blood.

January 13, 1941

Vietnamese soldiers mutiny at the Do Y Dong (Nghe An province) garrison.

project to set up a Committee of Insurrection and orders for the general insurrection prepared by the Central Committee of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party and the Viet Minh League General Committee.

August 16 and 17, 1945
A National Congress of representatives of various social strata, mass organizations and nationalities throughout the country is called to endorse the project of the Viet Minh League General Committee and establish a National Committee for the Liberation of Viet Nam.

March 12, 1945
A post at Ba To, Quang Ngai province, Central Viet Nam, is taken and a guerrilla base set up there.

April 15-20, 1945
A Revolutionary Military Conference is summoned in Tonkin where military measures are taken to launch the general insurrection all over the country.

June 4, 1945
A Conference of Viet Minh cadres meets to merge revolutionary patriotic (a coalition) and streaming military organizations in the liberated areas of the provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Can, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Ha Giang.

June 13-15, 1945
A National Conference of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party's cadres is convened to approve a

resolution for it would mean to rely solely on others and bind ourselves while the general situation develops in our favour. If revolution breaks out in Japan and revolutionary power is set up there, the Japanese or if Japan is invaded as was France in 1940 and that the Japanese expeditionary forces are demoralized, our general insurrection will succeed even in case the Allied forces have not yet landed in Indochina."

August 19, 1945
The insurrection is successful in Hanoi (North Viet Nam).

August 23, 1945
The insurgents carry the day in Hue—"Imperial city"—in Central Viet Nam.

August 25, 1945
The people seize power in Saigon (South Viet Nam).

August 27, 1945
The Provisional Government of the DRVN is proclaimed.

September 2, 1945
The independence of the DRVN is declared.

Viet NAM COURIER

Recollections of the August Revolution and Independence Day

THE Viet Minh nation-wide Congress was attended by delegates from all parts of the country, some of whom walked several months to get to it.

The main items in the Congress agenda were:

— To prepare for the general uprising and seize power.

— To cooperate with the Allies who had landed.

Discussion began. But on the evening of that very day, an important news item turned the Congress plans upside down: Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

The following day, the Congress discussed only the first question: the general uprising and seizing power.

The plan for uprising had been prepared long before and there remained only to submit it to the delegates from various regions for reconsideration and improvement, and to appoint the leaders for each region.

A Central Committee assuming the role of a Provisional Government was set up. Ho Chi Minh was unanimously elected President by the Congress.

Work was over by 7 p.m.

Immediately the Central Committee held its first meeting.

At midnight the delegates went home with enthusiasm, carrying with them the order for the uprising.

On July 16, 1945, the Viet Minh guerrilla corps left their base to go into action. Before leaving they tendered a flag-taking ceremony in which Vo Nguyen Giap, Chairman of the Military Committee, read a declaration.

Ho Chi Minh who has never could not attend the ceremony.

Singing, the guerrilla groups left their bases, heavily cheered by the population. The young leader of the groups, Quang Trung, was proudly marching under the red flag with a golden star.

Everywhere from the cities to the countryside, the people rose up and joined the liberation movement.

Viet Minh slogans appeared at every corner side by side with the gold-starred red flags.

"Down with the Japanese fascists!"

"Long live Viet Nam's Independence!"

"Let the whole people join in an armed uprising!"

Everywhere guerrilla groups came into being. They openly got their arms ready: short-lock rifles, bows, big knives, lances. The women showed no less eagerness than the men. More guerrilla fighters were recruited.

The guerrilla corps began attacking Japanese military posts. The Japanese forces began disintegrating, while the Tran Trong Kim Government* was collapsing even more rapidly.

The uprising spread from the North to the South.

Red flags with golden stars were seen everywhere—on big buildings and on bamboo huts—in the prisons and concentration camps, in remote detention islands, on the guillotines and on the battle-fields.

The people were longing for the coming of Ho Chi Minh.

Though still sick, Ho Chi Minh decided to join the people in the Capital, but only after Thai Nguyen had been liberated did he go to Hanoi.

But despite these facts, the French colonials propagated the lie that Ho Chi Minh was helped by Japan and that he was a Japanese agent.

In the delta, Ho suffered much from the heat of the sun, the heat of the flood, the heat of the rice fields.

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The Declaration of Independence was an offspring of the list of claims Ho Chi Minh had sent to the Versailles Conference in 1919, and of the Viet Minh program drawn up in 1940. Most of the contents of the offspring of declarations written by illustrious predecessors such as Thu Khoa Hau, Pham Dien Phung, Hoang Hoa Tham, Phan Boi Chau and many others, over a period of more than 50 years.

The Declaration of Independence was the outcome of much bloodshed and many sacrifices of lives by Viet Nam's brave sons and daughters in the prisons and concentration camps, in remote detention islands, on the guillotines and on the battle-fields.

But emotion reached its climax on the arrival of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved and respected leader whom the people were seeing for the first time. The people had come to attend the meeting and also to see President Ho.

It was a magnificent scene! A high imposing tribune, brave combatants, and impressive guard of honour, a sea of flags, a long line of cars—a spectacle worthy of the inauguration day of the People's Democratic Power. And the people told themselves that all these things were theirs.

Coming to attend the grand ceremony, everyone expected to see a prominent leader like that they had seen before. People of course knew they would not see a man attired like a king of ancient times in a royal yellow gown and a belt adorned with pearls, but the person who would come must be dressed like a national leader in an impeccable dress, with a distinguished gait and an ornate speech—in a word a personality with many mannerisms.

The people soon realized that they had been misled by their imagination. When President Ho Chi Minh arrived they found him just simple and cordial.

I saw President Ho Chi Minh from a distance. He wore a faded khaki helmet, a pair of rubber sandals and a khaki suit.

When the President began reading the Declaration of Independence, his loud, clear voice reminded one of the sound of drums and bugle warfare. Enthusiastic applause exploded reading one section. He asked amidst cheers:

"Fellow-countrymen, can you hear me distinctly?"

The simple question dispersed what might still separate the President and his people, and created a strong tie uniting the leader and the masses.

The strange question was quite unexpected. The President of the Republic had forsaken all ceremonial and formalities, he had become the Vietnamese people's "Uncle Ho."

"Follow-countrymen," can you hear me distinctly?" The answer was deeply moved by the love of President Ho Chi Minh for his people. Everyone felt that the President was just a man like himself, that he had the same kind of heart and friendly to them that he belonged to the people, and was a man whose love for the people was boundless.

In answer to the President's question, a million voices thundered, "Yes!" And for us as well as for the others this was the best, the deepest souvenir of that historic Independence Day.

(From *Glimpses of President Ho Chi Minh* by Tran Dan Tien)

* set up by the Japanese.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH GREETS WORLD YOUTH AND STUDENT VIET NAM MEETING

I am very happy to convey warm greetings and sincere thanks to the representatives of the world youth and students who are fighting in support of our people's struggle against US aggression.

Your meeting is a fine manifestation of the zeal and determination of the young generation to achieve its noble ideals of free dom, national independence and peace. It is a source of encouragement to our people in their struggle to defend the Fatherland, a precious contribution to their final victory. It is all the more important at a

I wish your meeting good success.

"We Are Meeting Here To Show Our Sustained and Resolute Support for Viet Nam"

(Declaration of A. Olivia, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, at the opening session of the "World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese people.")

REPORTS from Helsinki say that the "World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese people" attended by over 600 delegates from 13 international bodies and 174 national organizations of youth and students, opened in Helsinki on August 23, 1969.

Among the guests were Hoang Minh Giang, Minister of Culture of the DRVN, Nguyen Van Tien, deputy-head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and Nguyen Minh Vy, advisor to the leader of the DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference.

Thunderous applause greeted the delegation of DRVN youth and students led by Luu Minh Chua and that of the South Viet Nam Liberation youth and students headed by Tran Van Huu, as they entered the Meeting Hall.

Finland's Minister of Finance Ele Alenus delivered on behalf of his Government the welcome speech. He said:

"The progressive people in Finland will make every possible effort to give material and moral support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for their survival and their future... We assure you that various

social strata in Finland want the US to withdraw from South Viet Nam. The US has no right to delay or block the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, Mr. Alenus stressed.

A. Olivia, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, outlined the activities of world youth and students in support Viet Nam. He declared:

"We are meeting here to express our firm determination to continue our support for Viet Nam. We unreservedly side with the Vietnamese fighters. We are certain that the hard struggle conducted by the South Vietnamese people will be crowned with success, on the basis of the top-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL. We hail the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN, a historic event for all the progressive forces and a new victory of the Vietnamese fighters."

"They also threatened to 'head us' to intimidate into giving information on such matters as: organization and tasks of our Embassy; number of its personnel and duties of each of them; precautions to defend it in case of its ransacking; life story and responsibilities of each of us, etc. From their content and nature, their questions obviously were provocative attempts to collect intelligence against our Embassy."

"They also faked our signatures in the so-called 'declaration in honour' and 'request to stay in Laos' with a view to deceiving public opinion. They fabricated the story that we had denounced the Vietnamese residents in Laos, using this as a pretext to suppress, persecute and arrest illegally Vietnamese residents who have always been honestly earning their living and respecting the law, manners and customs of the Kingdom of Laos.

"Only after our release did we know that the Vietnamese authorities had concocted the story about 'the map of Long Cheng base' and charged us with 'espionage activities' in order to expel us. What is strange was that throughout our detention, they never asked us about the so-called 'map of Long Cheng base'."

"They treated us in a most shocking way: they beat us, forced us to sleep on the floor, with neither mosquito net nor mat,

handcuffed us, and gave us no medical care when we were sick.

"Before setting us free, they also tried to make us sign in a prepared declaration admitting that we were connected with espionage activities and were well treated; so as to slander us and cover up their inhumane acts.

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"The above acts of the Vietnamese authorities are part of their scheme pursued for many years now to systematically slander and provoke our Embassy, so as to conceal the US intensified interference and aggression against Laos and undermine the time-honoured friendship be-

tween the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples.

"They have violated very seriously foreign diplomats' immunities and international press regulations.

"We strongly protest and resolutely reject all their charges and denounce to public opinion their blatant provocations against our Embassy."

THE six officials of the DRVN who had been allegedly detained by the Vientiane authorities since August 6, 1969, were returned in Hanoi on August 26 as a result of firm representations and actions.

They were welcomed at the airport by Nguyen Co Thach, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Le Van Hien, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DRVN to the Kingdom of Laos; Dao Tung, Director General of Viet Nam Agency, and large crowd.

The returnees were all pale and tired as a result of 17 days of detention and ill-treatment. One of them, Hoang Nhiet Quang, came back in underpants only, all his clothes having been stripped by the Vientiane authorities, while Nguyen Trong Hung, whose shoes were grabbed, was bare-footed. The belongings of others, including money, wrist-watches, fountain pens, etc., had been taken away by the Vientiane administration, and they had to fly back in their only soiled suit.

After a medical check-up, the doctors announced that the health of the six DRVN officials was seriously impaired. They made a statement at the airport some extracts of which follow:

"The Vientiane authorities engineered a 'car accident' to have a

MAI THI NON, a School Girl and a Heroine

FOR a month now, the inhabitants of Ben Luc and Thu Thua (North Long An) have been passionately discussing and debating the death of Mai Thi Non, a school girl within her teens who had blown up in broad daylight the Ben Luc police station with a delayed-action mine, exacting 11 enemy casualties.

Not like others, her attack had to be made within thirty minutes, from 8 to 8.30 a.m. on June 4, 1969.

When she was checked by the senior, the third time, she was sold up by a guard despite her skillful disguise. While arguing with him with her mine, she exploded it and she ran through the door to rush to the police commander's office. The alert was sounded: policemen were close on her heels. She was hit twice, but well in its place, a deafening explosion was heard, and 11 men were killed, including a sub-commander and an adjutant.

Mai Thi Non was seriously wounded, both her arms and one of her legs were broken. To

all threats of torture she said, "Wiping out wicked things is a duty of all patriots. I'm happy I've been able to fulfill it."

They now tried to coax a confession from her, but she summoned up her last strength to cry out, "You are wasting your time questioning me, what I still want is to kill all traitors to the country" and died.

Her story is now known not only among the Ben Luc people but has spread to members of the puppet army and administration who cannot help admiring her.

The example of revolutionary heroism set by the dauntless girl guerrilla greatly inspires the Liberation armed forces and mass organizations in North Long An who are now holding discussions on this theme.

She has been posthumously awarded the title "Indomitable Heroine" and a Liberation Order, just class to the late Tran Van Lam, NFL Command and the Liberation Women's Union.



This gun barrel taken from a US tank will be used to prop up a shelter against enemy artillery

DRVN Vientiane Officials Returned to Hanoi after Illegal Detention

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New Polyclinic Commissioned

A new polyclinic was inaugurated in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam on Aug. 8.

The hospital, which includes surgery, pediatrics, eye, ear-nose-throat, odonto-stomatology, and maxillo-facial surgery, X-ray, radiography, and pharmacological sections, was dedicated by Dr. Minh Duong.

Since it started functioning before inauguration, the hospital has successfully handled about two surgical operations, mostly on civilian victims of US-puppet bombs and shells.

Medicines Develops in Can Tho

MEDICAL progress in the liberated areas of Can Tho province and that have been built in Long My, Mon and Ke districts while medical teams are operating on enemy first six

months of this year, over 15,000 people in the said districts received medical attention, while 15,000 others were inoculated.

Production of medicines and training of medical workers have received special attention from the local revolutionary authorities.

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HANOI

Who Is Tran Thien Khiem?

AN ex-officer of the auxiliary forces in the service of the South Vietnamese, he was born in 1914 in the city of Qui Nhon, Vietnam. He participated in the First Indochina War (1945-1954), and a former high-ranking officer of the South Vietnamese Army. In 1955, he joined the Communist Party of Vietnam. In 1956, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1958, he was appointed as a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1960, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1962, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1964, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1966, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1968, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1970, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1972, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. In 1974, he became a member of the Central Committee of the CPV. 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Military Operations

Da Nang Front: Successful Attacks against 2 US Marine Regiment HQ's: 700 GI's and 12 Cannons Put out of Action and 10 Aircraft Downed on Aug. 19.

Saigon Front: US Heavy Losses in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Provinces: 2,800 US and Puppet Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21.

Mekong Delta: 3 Enemy Companies Wiped Out in 2 Days in Ben Tre Province and 800 US and Puppet Soldiers Put out of Action in Ca Mau in 5 Days.

Enemy Losses in Various Regions:

- *Quang Tri-Thua Thien:* 2,500 Men Put out of Action, 35 Aircraft Downed, 70 Vehicles and 40 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 1 and Aug. 15.
- *Central Trung Bo:* 4,000 Adverse Casualties Listed, 26 Aircraft Downed, 172 Vehicles, 12 Cannons and 17 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 7 and Aug. 17.
- *Southern Trung Bo:* 1,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

THE PLAF offensives since August 11-12 continue unabated especially in the Da Nang and Saigon sectors.

Da Nang sector: Two regiments (the 1st and 5th Regiments) of the US First Marine Division which came under attack on the night of Aug. 12-13, lost 290 men killed, including a colonel and 20 junior officers, 12 heavy guns destroyed and 50 cannons taken down. On Aug. 14, a company of the US 196th Light Infantry Brigade was destroyed in the Que Son area where, between

Aug. 18 and Aug. 20, this Brigade suffered 300 casualties, lost to planes and helicopters shot down and 2 cannons destroyed.

Further Southeast, in Quang Ngai province, a US encampment was attacked and decimated. At 22 and some hours, puppet soldiers were knocked out in separate engagements around the provincial capital at dawn Aug. 17.

Further South, shellings were made on enemy positions in Qui Nhieu (270 km from Da Nang) on the night of Aug. 19 and in

Gam Ranch on the night of Aug. 17 when some 100 South Korean casualties were reported.

All told, in the provinces stretching between Da Nang and Nha Trang constituting Central Trung Bo, in the to-date period ending Aug. 19, the US-puppet toll was: 4,000, a battalion and 4 companies written off the musterroll; aircraft not downed 12 heavy guns and 172 vehicles destroyed.

On the Saigon front, the PLAF continue to win substantial successes in the provinces of Binh Long and Tay Ninh, respectively North

and Northwest of Saigon where, between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21, 2,600 adverse troops were put out of action, 42 aircraft cut down and 164 military vehicles wrecked.

On Aug. 20, a US armoured column intercepted between Chon Thanh and Non Quan suffered losses including 69 vehicles, 200 men and 8 choppers. In the same 3rd fest of the PLAF in the sector of Chon Thanh in 8 days, total battle count during these 3 engagements: 217 vehicles including 97 tanks and armoured cars destroyed or disabled, 800 GI's disabled, and 37 choppers brought down.

Further North, near Loe Ninh, an enemy encampment was also decimated Aug. 20, 3 US and puppet companies, 250 enemy troops and 15 tanks and armoured cars and 4 heavy mortars wiped out.

In Tay Ninh province, 400 adverse casualties were listed and 8 aircraft shot down between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21, South of the provincial capital. The hunt for enemy river craft between Aug. 11 and Aug. 21 yielded 48 vessels sunk or burnt and some 1,000 men killed or wounded.

In other theatres of operation, let's mention:

- a raid on the HQ of the 3rd Brigade, US roost Airborne, at Ta Tach near A Bia, Southwest of Hue on Aug. 20, resulted in heavy hand-to-hand combat, drowning of a huge transport plane by guerrillas in this area on Aug. 18, causing the death of some 50 adverse soldiers; shelling of the US Sa Muu base South of the DMZ on Aug. 20, dis-

abling 150 GI's. Total enemy losses in South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces of Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh, 2,600 men including 2,000 GI's and 70 vehicles put out of action, 35 aircraft shot down and 40 military depots destroyed.

- In the Western Highlands, the destruction on Aug. 17 of 3 US road convoys between Bao Loc and Nha Trang, 2,600 men including 2,000 GI's and 70 vehicles put out of action, 35 aircraft shot down and 40 military depots destroyed.

- In Southern Trung Ro formed by the provinces Southwest of Nha Trang, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15, some 3,000 adverse troops were put out. The biggest results were achieved on Aug. 12 at Song Mao (200 km East-Northeast of Saigon) where the CP of the puppet 44th Regiment was blotted out and 450 enemy casualties listed, and on Aug. 13 at Phu Nhieu Thiet where 170 US-puppets were knocked out and 15 vehicles destroyed in an ambush.

In the Mekong Delta, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 16, the PLAF of Ben Tre province inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy. In the same 6 days, 150 men were knocked out of action and 2 choppers grounded: On Aug. 17 and Aug. 21, 3 puppet companies were also struck out of the charge in this sector.

In the Southernmost section in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, 1,000 US puppets were killed or wounded, 5 vessels sent to the bottom and 3 helicopters grazed by regional troops between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

CHANGE IN SAIGON

VARIATION ON AN OLD THEME

THE puppet Tran Van Huong government fell after less than one year and a half of antics on the Saigon political scene and Nguyen Van Thieu has announced a collaborator of his, Tran Thien Khiem, to form a new one. However, the differences within the new administration remain unsolved because the situation is far from being stabilized. Things are getting from bad to worse. "A dangerous vacuum is being created which no one knows where this confusion will lead to," complained a Cannon official.

Is the situation of the puppet administration confuse?

No, it is as clear as ever. The puppet administration is heading for collapse!

First, this crisis spells out US failure in the use of stooges over the past eighteen months to consolidate and broaden the puppet regime.

Under the impact of the simultaneous offensives and uprisings by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people the US aggressors put

in power militarists to achieve the "Americanization" of their war against South Viet Nam. But after Tet 1968 the Yankees had to fall back on the strategic defensive. The militarists came under running and no brutality could help their impotence.

As the puppet administration faced a complete collapse, the Americans broadened its ranks by gathering more henchmen and tried to compose their internal disputes by bringing in the civilian Tran Van Huong clique.

Nevertheless, after fourteen months of this experiment the cranky chariot of war was not fared any better. The wrangles have embittered the situation which further dimmed because Thieu and Huong busy with their intrigues have fallen far short of Nixon's expectations in the "de-Americanization" of the war. The latter has been forced to let Thieu out. Huong, a collaborator of the US Embassy, and set up a new cabinet. In their pre-dicament the US imperialists

have had to revert to "a new variation on an old theme." The choice of a militarist who failed to "Americanize" the war, to "de-Americanize" it is clear evidence of Nixon's dilemma.

Second, the change points to Nixon's failure to beef up Van Thieu's army. Nixon has realized that, with a thoroughly unpopular puppet administration and an inefficient heterogeneous army, he had toered up some 50,000 GI's, he came up neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. For this call for the rallying of forces around a ringleader able to command warring factions and the establishment of a political

organization serving as a prop to the puppet administration. While Nixon has lauded praise on Thieu as one of the few brilliant statesmen of the world today, he came to Saigon and called on Thieu to create a political party in support of the government. All this was meant to consolidate the puppet administration, widen its political base and set up a new reactionary system to oppose all sensible political solutions to the problems in South Viet Nam and achieve US neo-colonialism there. Now this dream has been shattered. Anarchy sets in. Divergences are ripe. The American imperialists, however, go against this trend of evolution of the puppet administration: - in South Viet Nam's three provinces of Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh, the rift within it is the dominant feature. This antagonism is sharper ever, swelling the ranks of enemies. Nguyen Cao Ky, Tran Van Huong and their followers, together with hundreds of officers and men eliminated or put into jail will certainly react. As the conflict between Nguyen Van Thieu will become more serious and acute, the dismissal of Huong does not bring the puppets together but triggers a new scramble.

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LONG LIVE PEACEFUL, REUNIFIED, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS VIET NAM

VIET NAM COURIER